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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE
HEARING.

REF: STATE 288223.

1. FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
HELD HEARING ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA AFTERNOON
DECEMBER 18. TWO WITNESSES WERE HEARD: MRS. CARMEL
BUDIARDJO OF BRITISH TAPOL ORGANIZATION AND JOHN NEWMAN,
FORMER EMPLOYEE OF FORD FOUNDATION IN JAKARTA (1967-71).
REPRESENTATIVES OF INDONESIAN EMBASSY AND AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL WERE IN AUDIENCE BUT NO PRESS WERE PRESENT
AND WE HAVE SEEN NO PRESS REPORTING OF HEARING. TESTIMONY
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WAS CONFINED MAINLY TO QUESTION OF PRISONERS DETAINED

IN CONNECTION WITH 1965 COUP ATTEMPT.

2. HEARING BEGAN WITH LONG PREPARED STATEMENT READ BY MRS. BUDIARDJO (COPY BEING POUCHED EMBASSY). STATEMENT BITTERLY CONDEMNED ALLEGED GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SUHARTO GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF DETAINEES. QUOTING EXTENSIVELY FROM WHAT PURPORTED TO BE GOI DOCUMENTS, STATEMENT CHARGED GOI WITH PROLONGED ILLEGAL DETENTION, CONTINUED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS, FALSE AND MISLEADING PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AND WIDESPREAD TORTURE OF DETAINEES. (LAST SUBJECT WAS EMBELLISHED WITH HIGHLY DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF "SEXUAL TORTURE INFLICTED ON WOMEN"). STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH "RECOMMENDATIONS" TO SUBCOMMITTEE THAT (A) ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO INDONESIA BE CUT OFF UNTIL GOI CEASED TO VIOLATE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION; (B) A CONGRESSIONAL MISSION GO TO INDONESIA TO MAKE AN "INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION" OF STATUS AND TREATMENT OF PRISONERS; (C) SUBCOMMITTEE OR PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL MISSION INQUIRE INTO ALLEGED UNEXPLAINED DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF PRISONERS, WITH THREE NAMES SUGGESTED AS SUBJECTS FOR INITIAL INQUIRY; (D) SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATE SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF TORTURE, DOCUMENTARY INFORMATION ON WHICH MRS. BUDIARDJO WILL SUBMIT TO SUBCOMMITTEE; AND (E) SUBCOMMITTEE SEEK RELEASE OF HER HUSBAND, HELD FOR TEN YEARS WITHOUT CHARGES OR TRIAL.

3. BUDIARDJO TESTIMONY FOLLOWED BY SHORTER STATEMENT READ BY NEWMAN (COPY BEING POUCHED EMBASSY), WHICH FOLLOWED GENERALLY SIMILAR LINE. STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT HE HAD COME BY HIS KNOWLEDGE OF CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH DETAINEES HELD THROUGH HIS EFFORTS TO ASSIST RELEASED PRISONERS DURING HIS SOJOURN IN JAKARTA. STATEMENT CITED SECTION 502B OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND RECOMMENDED FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF GOI'S CONDUCT, INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION TO INDONESIA.

4. CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN (CALIFORNIA) QUESTIONED MRS. BUDIARDJO AT SOME LENGTH ON HER ASSOCIATION WITH FORMER SUKARNO REGIME. ALTHOUGH SHE CLAIMED THAT HER POSITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN FOREIGN DEPARTMENT WAS MINOR ONE WITHOUT POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES, SHE ACKNOWLEDGED WORKING FOR FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SUBANDRIO (SUKARNO'S CHIEF ADVISOR DURING LAST, MOST RADICAL PHASE OF SUKARNO REGIME). SHE ALSO CONCEDED THAT HER HUSBAND WAS MEMBER OF INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PKI) AND WAS OFFICIAL IN GOVERNMENT SHIPPING AGENCY UNDER SUKARNO.

5. CONGRESSMAN RYAN THEN READ STATEMENT SUMMARIZING HISTORY OF PKI, NOTING THAT IT HAD RISEN FROM DEFEATS IN 1926 AND 1948 TO BECOME MAJOR POWER IN INDONESIA IN EARLY 1960S. STATEMENT DESCRIBED RADICAL, VIOLENTLY ANTI-US CHARACTER OF SUKARNO REGIME, RECALLING ITS USE OF DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL, ITS ELIMINATION OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS, AND ITS ENCOURAGEMENT OF REPEATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS. CONGRESSMAN QUESTIONED MRS. BUDIARDJO PERSISTENTLY ON WHAT SHE HAD DONE TO OPPOSE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DURING HER ASSOCIATION WITH SUKARNO REGIME. SHE REPLIED THAT

SHE "HAD DONE SOME THINGS FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS" BUT DID NOT DESCRIBE THEM. SHE ADDED THAT SHE DID NOT APPROVE ALL ACTIVITIES OF SUKARNO REGIME.

6. TAKING OVER QUESTIONING, CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYES EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL WAS BEING PERMITTED CONGRESSIONAL FORUM TO CRITICIZE ANOTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRY. HE ASKED MRS. BUDIARDJO ABOUT SPONSORSHIP AND SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR HER CURRENT ACTIVITIES. SHE IDENTIFIED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AS AMONG SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS, NAMING NO OTHERS. FUNDS, SHE CLAIMED, CAME FROM "MY OWN SAVINGS" PLUS DONATIONS AND LECTURE FEES.

7. CONGRESSMAN HAYES THEN ASKED MRS. BUDIARDJO IF SHE HAD EVER BEEN MEMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTY. SHE REPLIED THAT SHE HAD BEEN MEMBER OF BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY FROM 1946 TO 1948 BUT WAS NOT NOW A MEMBER. SHE SAID SHE HAD NEVER JOINED INDONESIAN PKI. IN FURTHER QUESTIONING SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SHE WAS AUTHOR OF THE 18 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT WITH CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 4 (COPY POUCHED EMBASSY).

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8. IN COURSE OF FURTHER QUESTIONING, MRS. BUDIARDJO CHALLENGED STATEMENT THAT PKI WAS BEHIND SEPTEMBER 1965 COUP ATTEMPT, SAYING THAT SHE CONSIDERED IT INTERNAL ARMY MATTER IN WHICH PKI WAS NOT INVOLVED.

9. HEARING CONCLUDED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER THAT FURTHER HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA WOULD BE SCHEDULED IN FUTURE. KISSINGER

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